

Unmet Needs of Cancer Patients Participating in Clinical Trials

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INTRODUCTION

The number of clinical trial approvals in Korea is steadily increased, with 38.7% of all clinical trials being anticancer drug trials for cancer treatment, showing the highest proportion for four consecutive years. Healthcare providers should be able to identify and intervene in the needs of cancer patients participating in clinical trials to help them express their feelings, provide information about treatment, and discuss future decisions. However, factors such as patient preferences, life goals, and quality of life are not sufficiently considered in the treatment process.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this study is to investigate the unmet needs of cancer patients participating in clinical trials of anticancer drugs, compare them according to general characteristics and disease characteristics, and analyze the relationship between them.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In early 2023, a literature review was conducted by searching for articles on “cancer”, “clinical trials”, and “unmet needs” using databases including PubMed, Embase, CINAHL, and RISS. Of the 32 studies, 22 were used for literature review.

RESULTS

Cancer patients participating in clinical trials have concerns about randomization assigned to the placebo group, the complexity of the protocol, potential side effects, and that clinical trials will not be suitable for severe diseases. With these concerns, patients can experience psychological problems such as anxiety, fear, and uncertainty, result in psychological stress and fatigue. It leads to refusal to participate in clinical trials, affecting satisfaction and compliance with clinical trials.

Understanding needs can identify the magnitude of the need for help, the priority and urgency of the needs, allocate limited resources, and identify patients with high levels of needs to prevent or reduce problems with appropriate early intervention. Needs vary depending on the situation, influenced by personal and disease characteristics, so it is difficult to generalize the research results to all cancer patients.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the experience of cancer patients participating in clinical trials and provide appropriate help, it is necessary to understand the unmet needs of patients participating in clinical trials.

